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1 SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
2 REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

3
4 VOLUME III

5
6 Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
7 Kenai, Alaska
8 March 3, 2000 - 9:00 a.m.

9
10 MEMBERS PRESENT:

11
12 Ralph Lohse, Chairman
13 Fred John, Jr.
14 Clare Swan
15 Fred H. Elvsaas
16 Gilbert Dementi, Sr.
17 Kenneth Vlasoff
18
19 Helga Eakon, Coordinator
20
21 Joseph P. Kolasinski, Reporter

P R O C E E D I N G S

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CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We'll call this meeting of the Southcentral Regional Subsistence Advisory Council back in session. We're back on the agenda, and we have completed the proposals. We are going into agency reports, and then any new business after that. So at this point in time, our first agency to report is U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. Am I correct, Helga, or am I off schedule again?

MS. EAKON: No, you're right on.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Wow. Okay.

MS. EAKON: The only.....

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think that's the first time that's happened this week.

MS. EAKON: The only thing from our Subsistence Office is under tab V as in Victor, and that is information relevant to Alaska trappers, fur buyers and other fur exporters.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

MS. EAKON: And that pertains -- that outlines the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regulatory requirements for exporting commercial fur shipments from Alaska to Canada. And that is it for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if I understood it right, they have altered the procedure to make it more easily accessible to the small trappers out in the villages and stuff like that?

MS. EAKON: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because I know there was a lot of complaints about the cost and the complication, and it looked to me like they've simplified it a bit anyhow.....

MS. EAKON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN LOHSE:if you can simplify something like that.

1 MS. EAKON: And that's it from Fish and
2 Wildlife.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

5
6 MS. EAKON: And Kenai National Wildlife
7 Refuge, I guess they didn't have a report, because Mark
8 Chase didn't send me anything.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, okay, so we have no
11 report from the Kenai National.....

12
13 MS. EAKON: No.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:Refuge? Okay. In
16 that case the next report we'll go on to is the National
17 Park Service, Wrangell/St. Elias Park and Preserve. Devi?
18 Boy, I apologize, because I think I've been calling you
19 Debbie all the time instead of Devi.

20
21 MR. VLASOFF: What is it?

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Devi.

24
25 MS. SHARP: I won't tell you on record how
26 you remember.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I have an idea, but I'm
29 not going to say it.

30
31 MS. SHARP: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.
32 Thank you for this opportunity. Devi Sharp, Wrangell/St.
33 Elias. I've got the wrong notes.

34
35 REPORTER: Sure, real easy, Devi.

36
37 MS. SHARP: Unless you want to hear about
38 Proposals 19 and 21. Okay.

39
40 The Wrangell/St. Elias National Park Resource
41 Commission met at Tazlina Village Hall on February 22nd and
42 23rd. There have been some changes to the membership of
43 our SRC. John Vale, formerly the chair from Yakutat, is
44 off the SRC and is replaced by Bert Adams, Sr., also from
45 Yakutat. And he is the representative from the
46 Southeastern Regional Advisory Council. Ray Sensmeyer,
47 also from Yakutat, is the new chair.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Who?

1 MS. SHARP: Ray Sensmeyer.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: From Yakutat?

4

5 MS. SHARP: From Yakutat.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

8

9 MS. SHARP: Chuck Miller from Dot Lake,
10 Chair of Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council,
11 replaces Frank Entsminger from Tok.

12

13 The meeting focused on proposals, but other topics
14 included the need for NPS regulations to better address the
15 use of plant and other materials for handicraft use. At
16 present the NPS regulations in our Code of Federal
17 regulations don't address the use of other plant materials
18 for making handicrafts. And.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: By other, what do you mean
21 by other plant? Does it address any plant materials?

22

23 MS. SHARP: It addresses edible plant
24 materials, but it doesn't address birch bark for birch
25 bark.....

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Diamond willow, birch
28 bark, and things like that.

29

30 MS. SHARP: That's correct.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Spruce roots.

33

34 MS. SHARP: That's correct.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

37

38 MS. SHARP: And Bob Gerhard is somewhat
39 more -- understands it better than I do, but that is
40 the.....

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the idea is that
43 something needs to be in the regulations to make that
44 legally available since everybody's using it anyhow?

45

46 MS. SHARP: That's correct. So we are
47 going to start working on that in the Park Service, and
48 through our SRCs to better address that.

49

50 At the meeting I presented a briefing about

1 subsistence management on the Copper River. There were
2 many, many concerns about the former personal use dip net
3 fishery that has recently been redesignated as a State
4 subsistence fishery. I think I was able to answer all the
5 questions, but there still remains a high level of concern
6 about subsistence fisheries in the Copper River.

7

8 Other issues that came up were in the past Chairman
9 Vale had asked the subsistence resource commission to
10 permit ATV use, or motorized vehicle use on the Malaspina
11 forelands, which is a remote area from the park. You have
12 to fly in. And there has been a history of motorized
13 vehicle use in the past. There were a few jeeps on the
14 Malaspina forelands that were used for commercial fishing,
15 and because they were there, they were used for subsistence
16 fishing also, and for subsistence hunting for, you know,
17 picking up a moose and taking it to your boat. Over the
18 years we've done our research, we did the research on how
19 ATVs affect the beach grass and the historical research on
20 how many vehicles and who used them, and how come, and they
21 were -- and I was ready to present a plan to the SRC on how
22 to monitor the ATV use to make sure that we didn't have
23 resource impacts, and the two member from Yakutat deferred
24 that -- deferred this request, because they didn't feel
25 like the ATV users -- that the ATV use could be controlled.
26 They cited several examples nine miles from their community
27 where ATV had negative -- ATVs had negative impacts on the
28 beach grass and vegetation communities, and they were not
29 comfortable with the resource impacts. So that's been
30 deferred, and I think that was a good decision on their
31 part, because we were not very comfortable with that.

32

33 Wrangell has a new superintendent. His name is
34 Gary Candelaria. Gary comes most recently from Pentacles
35 National Park in California, but he did spend ten years in
36 Sitka. He's glad to be back to Alaska. He has family in
37 Alaska, and he under- -- he's beginning to get an
38 understanding of subsistence, and embraces it, and is eager
39 to get to as many meetings as he can. He couldn't make
40 this one, but he will certainly try in the future to
41 attend.

42

43 The -- I failed to mention that the next SRC
44 meeting will be November 3rd through 4th in Yakutat.
45 Everybody's welcome to attend.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: November 3rd and 4th?

48

49 MS. SHARP: Yeah. Let's see, a few
50 projects that we've completed this year: We've completed a

1 video jukebox so you can sit down in our little visitor
2 center and start the computer, and you can bring up the
3 program, click on a person and hear their story. So you
4 can click on Milly Buck or Katie John or some of the more
5 recent people. Who knows, maybe Ralph Lohse.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

8
9 MS. SHARP: But it's really fun, because
10 you get to -- you can learn a lot. I have actually used it
11 as a resource for learning about issues. And right now
12 it's got some bugs, because it's in a MacIntosh computer,
13 and we've put some money into making it a little more user
14 friendly, but I think it will be pretty popular
15 particularly when we move to our new visitors center, which
16 is -- we're working on the contracting for phase II, and
17 hope to have Ahtna Construction give us a bid. Phase II
18 builds the buildings. And we hope to be able to move in as
19 of July 2001. It's going to be pushing it, we're a little
20 behind, but it's not totally impossible, but the time is
21 getting tighter.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And the location will be?

24
25 MS. SHARP: And the location is, oh, a few
26 tenths of a mile north of the junction between the Old
27 Richardson Highway and the New Richardson Highway, so the
28 New Richardson -- the Old Richardson Highway is the one
29 that loops down into Copper Center.....

30
31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

32
33 MS. SHARP:past our old visitors
34 center and the post office.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So you'd be towards
37 Glennallen from the junction?

38
39 MS. SHARP: Right. On the main road.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right on the main road.

42
43 MS. SHARP: Looking into the mountains.
44 Really a pretty view.

45
46 We have a park web page with a subsistence link,
47 and there's absolutely nothing on the link. And we're
48 going to fix that. Heather's going to -- as a special
49 project, she's going to make a subsistence link to that,
50 and talk about subsistence without -- just so visitors can

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1 understand why subsistence is a very important part of the
2 park.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that it is a part of
5 the park.

6

7 MS. SHARP: It is a part of the park, it's
8 part of the reason the park.....

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean, that's so that
11 visitors can understand that, so if they come across
12 subsistence being.....

13

14 MS. SHARP: Right.

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that they don't get
17 on the phone and call the park ranger and say, somebody's
18 killing a moose in the park.

19

20 MS. SHARP: Right. Exactly. And it will
21 give people a broader understanding of the cultural and
22 local uses of the park. And I think that's all I have.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any questions for Devi?

25

26 MR. F. JOHN: When's -- how long is it
27 going to be that -- before that new building be done? A
28 couple years?

29

30 MS. SHARP: The visitors center?

31

32 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

33

34 MS. SHARP: We're hoping to move in by
35 2001.

36

37 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh. Will be good.

38

39 MS. SHARP: But -- yeah, it will be nice.

40

41 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it going to be log?

44

45 MS. SHARP: Is it going to be log?

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is it going to be log?

48

49 MS. SHARP: No.

50

1 MR. F. JOHN: They're going to have that
2 Ahtna museum in there, and.....

3
4 MS. SHARP: Yeah.

5
6 MR. F. JOHN:everything that.....

7
8 MS. SHARP: There's been some difficulty
9 working out the legalities of that, but I think we've
10 gotten past some of those. Yeah, there's going to be --
11 the plan is that, excuse me, that you come in and there's
12 an Ahtna Heritage Center museum that would be run, managed
13 by Ahtna, Incorporated. And then you get to the visitors
14 center. And the visitors center and the headquarters will
15 be separate, but in the headquarters building there will be
16 kind of a small contact station, so in the winter time, we
17 can just shut down the main visitor center and not incur
18 the cost of a big building, and having to staff it away
19 from our main building, and then just bring it into our
20 main building. Yeah, we're all looking forward to a little
21 more modern office.

22
23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A little more room.

24
25 MS. SHARP: Hopefully. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, is there any
28 potential for charging a fee to use the visitors center, or
29 for a fee for the park at this point in time?

30
31 MS. SHARP: We do not want to go there.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

34
35 MS. SHARP: We don't see that it benefits
36 the public, the community, or quite honestly ourselves,
37 because we don't really want to charge people to use the
38 visitors center.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

41
42 MS. SHARP: And we don't want to charge
43 people to use the park. We don't really have a mechanism.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

46
47 MS. SHARP: And then we'd be
48 discriminating. If we just charged for the visitors
49 center, we'd be discriminating against the people who just
50 stopped in a bus.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

2

3 MS. SHARP: You know, they would have to
4 pay, and the people who just use the park wouldn't have to
5 pay. It's an unusual park. We don't have an entrance.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

8

9 MS. SHARP:and we'd rather not make
10 people pay to use the park.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's good. I was hoping
13 that there -- you know, because I was thinking that
14 sometimes if there's a museum connected with it, there's a
15 charge for using the museum. And are you planning on.....

16

17 MS. SHARP: There may be for the Ahtna
18 museum.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, there may be for the
21 Ahtna museum?

22

23 MS. SHARP: And I'm not.....

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you don't have to go
26 through it to get into the visitors center?

27

28 MS. SHARP: That's correct.

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

31

32 MS. SHARP: Our visitors center will be
33 free.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And the other thing
36 is, are you -- at the same time, are you going to have a
37 place in there where you collect historical and -- you
38 know, basically historical information of the whole area,
39 and make it available for people who want to do research on
40 the area, look back into the area, things like that? Is --
41 you have a historical department.....

42

43 MS. SHARP: Yes, we do. And we.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:at the national park.
46 Are you going to try to set up some kind of data base that
47 will make the information and photos and everything that
48 you collect.....

49

50 MS. SHARP: More available?

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: available for
2 somebody that wants to do research or something on the
3 area?

4
5 MS. SHARP: We try to make that available
6 upon request at any point. There's no specific effort to
7 make that available to the general public, but if someone
8 asks us for a legitimate request for information, we're
9 happy to work with them, even if it takes a considerable
10 amount of our time. We do have an excellent collection of
11 photographs.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Well, that's what
14 I was thinking is if that all could be -- if that all could
15 be computerized so that that would be accessible, it would
16 be a tremendous research for -- research tool for all kinds
17 of projects, everything from my kids' school projects to --
18 you know, to somebody's doctoral dissertation.

19
20 MS. SHARP: And we do get a lot of requests
21 for information and spend a lot of time preparing
22 information for people. But I don't envision that that
23 will be publicly available in the visitors center; however,
24 as we move into the new building and I achieve my goal of
25 getting more of our information centralized and
26 computerized and the data locatable, that.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. That's what I was
29 thinking.

30
31 MS. SHARP: Yeah, that is actually one of
32 my big goals in resource management right now is to get our
33 20 years worth of data. It's still manageable, to get.....

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To get those -- get that
36 collection of photographs off of photographs that can't be
37 handled, get them digitalized and put them in the computer
38 so they can be accessed by.....

39
40 MS. SHARP: There.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: more people.

43
44 MS. SHARP: That's actually one of our best
45 data bases, because we have a data base that you can look
46 at the information about a picture, and then click on that,
47 and then get the picture. And they're linked.

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So you are liking
50 them to.....

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1 MS. SHARP: Yeah, we were.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Good.

4

5 MS. SHARP: We are. It's wonderful to have
6 a good historian.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Any other questions
9 for Devi? Thank you, Devi.

10

11 MS. SHARP: Thank you.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We had Hollis' last --
14 yesterday. So at this point in time we'll go on to Elijah,
15 Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen.

16

17 MR. WATERS: Good morning, Mr. Chair,
18 Council.

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: If I remember right, this
20 is the first time to testify in front of us, isn't it.....

21

22 MR. WATERS: Yes, it is.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:Or to talk in front
25 of us?

26

27 MR. WATERS: Yes, it is, so you'll have
28 to.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Glad to have you.

31

32 MR. WATERS: You'll have to look over
33 anything I do wrong. I would like to call your attention
34 to the agency report in your handout.

35

36 First of all we'll talk about the moose permits.
37 The 1999 moose season, as you know, is over. And we had a
38 record number of tags given out this year, and that was due
39 to the addition of the Delta Junction residents. And if
40 you look at the graph, I'll give you a minute to find it.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. What -- I lost
43 mine. I don't.....

44

45 MR. WATERS: It's tab V.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's what I was under,
48 but I couldn't find it.

49

50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Tab E?

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: V.

2

3 MR. WATERS: V as in Victor.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's right -- it should be
6 right in back of this one, but.....

7

8 MS. EAKON: It's after Chugach
9 National.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, it's after Chugach.
12 Okay.

13

14 MS. EAKON: You know, because
15 (indiscernible).

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

18

19 MR. WATERS: Sorry about that. They're not
20 numbered in order. I numbered mine individually as did
21 everyone else. That's it, Fred, I think. I thought.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. There. What page
24 are we on?

25

26 MR. WATERS: Is that it? Yeah.

27

28 MR. F. JOHN: Yes.

29

30 MR. WATERS: That's it. The.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: There we go, yeah.

33

34 MR. WATERS: It would be number two, page
35 number two in my report.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Bureau of Land
38 Management. It's page two. It's right after the project
39 that we were looking at. That's -- it's just a couple of
40 pages, and it kind of gets lost if you don't catch it on
41 the way through.

42

43 MR. WATERS: Yeah, just a couple. Short
44 and sweet. Okay. As I said, we actually gave out a record
45 number of tags this year for moose, and that was due to the
46 addition of the Delta Junction residents being eligible for
47 tags. The number increased by 50 percent over what we've
48 been averaging. But, however, that didn't necessarily
49 translate into an increase in harvest. And I think if you
50 talk to some of the people that that's probably more a

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1 reflection of moose population numbers more so than the
2 number of tags that are being given out. So the next graph
3 there, you see we've been averaging, you know a little over
4 50 animals taken, and this year we're at 41 is what's in
5 right now. Actually 31 right now. So that.....

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's.....

8

9 MR. WATERS:might come up as more
10 tags come in. I know that tags should be in now, but you
11 know how people are.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

14

15 MR. WATERS: Okay. Next the caribou.
16 Again this year we've given out a record number of caribou
17 tags.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I just stop you for a
20 second, allow us.....

21

22 MR. WATERS: Sure.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:to go back? Okay.
25 That was 31 moose under the subsistence tags, right?

26

27 MR. WATERS: Right.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You have no -- you don't
30 know what the total number of moose was, counting what the
31 State got at this point in time?

32

33 MR. WATERS: No, I don't.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

36

37 MR. WATERS: Unh-unh. (Negative) Okay.
38 On caribou, again we've -- we're giving out record numbers
39 of tags now due to addition of the Delta Junction
40 residents. And if you look at the bottom graph on the
41 subsistence caribou harvest, this year's data is
42 incomplete, but last year it was more caribou than average,
43 but it's not, in my opinion, enough to get concerned with
44 yet. It appears to me that the caribou harvest is more a
45 reflection of the migration timing of the animals rather
46 than the number of tags that are actually given out. And
47 I'm also anticipating that that number of tags will come
48 down somewhat as it has -- if you look at the top graph on
49 caribou, when people first find out they're eligible for
50 tags, a lot of people get them, and then as time goes on,

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1 they see that they really don't hunt caribou as much as
2 they thought they might. So I think that those tags will
3 come down. We will continue to monitor that to see how
4 that does impact the harvest though, but right now I'm
5 thinking that the caribou harvest is going, you know, to
6 stay within the historical bounds. I want to say that.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What is your feeling on
9 the harvest so far this year? Is it on track, under track?

10

11 MR. WATERS: I think it's on track from
12 what I've seen.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You think it's on track.

15

16 MR. WATERS: I've been up there a good bit
17 in the last two months just to see what the availability of
18 animals is, and I've been somewhat pleased with the -- it
19 seems like the hunt is really scattered, you know. People
20 -- even when there's not a mad rush of people, like what I
21 was told would be. So it's nothing for me to get concerned
22 over yet. There are a few animals being taken, but it's
23 not just a big mass slaughter like what I had been told
24 that it could be.

25

26 The subsistence program is definitely a high
27 priority with my agency, and it's a high priority with
28 myself, so anything that I can do for the Council, just let
29 me know. Any service, anything you'd like to see from the
30 BLM, if you'll let me know, we'll work with you, work for
31 you as best we can.

32

33 And the final thing I'd like to report is we do
34 have the funding for a ranger position that should be
35 advertised any day now, and we should have that ranger on
36 board this summer. And if there are no questions, that
37 concludes my report.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Elijah, a ranger's
40 basically an enforcement.....

41

42 MR. WATERS: Right. Right.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:officer, isn't it?

45 So he.....

46

47 MR. WATERS: Yeah, I'm sorry.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:will be enforcing
50 like ATV regulations on Federal land, things like that?

1 MR. WATERS: Exactly. The -- in the summer
2 time I think he'll probably work a lot with the recreation
3 program, but in the fall and winter he'll work probably,
4 you know, -- I would anticipate three of his work months
5 will be devoted to subsistence or wildlife enforcement.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: He's not just there to
8 enforce subsistence, he's there to enforce Federal
9 regulations on Federal land, isn't he?

10
11 MR. WATERS: Right. He'll be enforcing
12 trespass, recreation use or, you know.....

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: ATV use, and.....

15
16 MR. WATERS:camp -- yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:things like that.

19
20 MR. WATERS: Everything. Anything, any
21 Federal regulation on Federal land, that's what he'll be
22 doing. We've been without one for a couple years I guess,
23 but my experience in the past is they do a lot of work with
24 -- also with, you know, local law enforcement and, you
25 know, where needed, assisting that, that kind of thing,
26 too.

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: This Council in the past
29 has expressed concern over ATV use up in that area. What
30 are the current Federal regulations in -- on the Federal
31 land now? Are they restricted to trails only, identified
32 trails or what?

33
34 MR. WATERS: That's according to what block
35 you're in. There's -- it's different regulations for
36 different areas. There is the Gulkana Controlled Use are
37 which are -- in which you can't used motorized vehicles for
38 hunting purposes, but you can use them for recreation
39 purposes, but there is just -- it varies by area, so -- I
40 mean, certainly don't have it memorized by area, but it
41 does vary, and.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But there's -- but there
44 still are areas that basically ATVs can go any place.....

45
46 MR. WATERS: They can go.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:any place that
49 they.....

1 MR. WATERS:anywhere they want.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:they can go any place
4 they want.

5

6 MR. WATERS: Right.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They're not restricted,
9 but they're not restricted.....

10

11 MR. WATERS: Right.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:to trails or anything
14 like that?

15

16 MR. WATERS: In some places, that's
17 correct. One of the -- one of the sensitive areas that
18 we're trying to limit it to is around the Tangle Lakes
19 area. I know there's a lot of -- there's certain
20 restrictions in that area. And then the Gulkana Controlled
21 Use Area also has restrictions. But to my knowledge, like
22 the Tiekel Block and some of the others don't have any
23 restrictions. You can go wherever whenever.

24

25 I know there's been -- one of the comments on the
26 snow machine use to harass caribou, and I've been up there
27 several times, and it's more recreational use. It's not
28 hunters up there harassing caribou. It's just recreational
29 users, and it's not -- there's no -- there's certainly no
30 favoritism for Federal public lands. I mean, they're --
31 you know, it's the same use whether it's State lands,
32 Federal lands, whatever, so.....

33

34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But has there been any
35 educational stuff put out to remind recreational users you
36 don't have to take a caribou in order to bother a caribou
37 in the middle of wintertime. I mean, have we had any kind
38 of educational materials or posters or anything put up that
39 reminds them that, you know, the chasing, harassing,
40 molesting, or whatever you want to call it of moose and
41 caribou in the winter is detrimental to them, and is
42 illegal?

43

44 MR. WATERS: There's no kinds of posters up
45 there that I've seen, and I'm sure there's not, or somebody
46 would have told me that there was. But that's certainly
47 something we could look into. It sounds like a very cheap
48 way to.....

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just a cheap reminder.

1 MR. WATERS:to educate the public,
2 and it's -- it would be very easy for us to do. We could
3 put them right along with the -- at the trail heads. We
4 could put them at the -- you know, at the posting of the
5 Federal lands. You know, that.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just need to remind them
8 that they're very vulnerable in the wintertime.....

9
10 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and that, you know,
13 if you see a moose or caribou, give it a wide detour.....

14
15 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:because the only
18 thing you could do is do damage to it by going too close,
19 even if you want to go get a good close look at it with a
20 snow machine.

21
22 MR. WATERS: Even on the packed trails,
23 like the Denali Highway, sometimes those things just get
24 right in the road and you can't go around them, they won't
25 move. But we could -- that's certainly something we could
26 do, you know. It would be cheap and easy, and I think it's
27 a great idea.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it would be a step.
30 I mean, it's not going to solve everything, but that is a
31 concern of.....

32
33 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: subsistence users
36 that, you know, the increased snow machine use up in that
37 area has an impact on the caribou and the moose that are in
38 the area, and it's logical that it would because it's --
39 there is a real increase in the amount of just plain, like
40 you said, recreational snow machine use up there. I have
41 no idea what kind of effect it has on ptarmigan or anything
42 like that, but it's something that they need to be aware
43 of, and aware of that -- you know, if they don't police
44 themselves, then in the future regulations will come.....

45
46 MR. WATERS: Uh-huh.

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:in place to police
49 them for themselves.

1 MR. WATERS: We'll be up there looking into
2 that a lot more now that I'm on board, and once we get our
3 law enforcement ranger on board. We'll be up there quite a
4 bit more to look into it.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. Any other
7 questions for Elijah? You? You don't. Thank you muchly
8 for your report.

9
10 MR. WATERS: I'm looking forward to working
11 with the Council, and I'm glad to be here. Thank you.

12
13 MR. F. JOHN: Welcome aboard.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I talked to Steve Zemke
16 yesterday on the Chugach National Forest. They have a list
17 of projects that they're doing in the forest here. He
18 asked me whether he should drive down to present them to
19 us. I kind of glanced through them, and I thought that --
20 I know that Ken has got direct, you know, impact. Most of
21 these impact the Cordova/Prince William Sound area. Most
22 of these are projects that are up for public review in our
23 communities, and so as a Council, I told him I didn't think
24 that I saw anything that had direct subsistence, and he
25 would have preferred not to have been here, because he had
26 other things. So I said that, Ken, that what we can do is
27 we can review this on our own, and if you see anything that
28 looks like it has subsistence impact, we'll let him know,
29 but otherwise we'll leave it up to our communities.....

30
31 MR. VLASOFF: Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:you know, because the
34 communities are really involved with them in developing
35 those topics.

36
37 At this point in time we'll go on to the Alaska
38 Department of Fish and Game. And here comes the ones we're
39 all waiting for.

40
41 MS. EWAN: Do you want to go first?

42
43 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, I'll go first. Thank
44 you, Mr. Chairman, Council. My name is Tom Taube. I'm the
45 area management biologist for sport fish division in the
46 Glennallen office. Helga is passing out three forms here.
47 Unfortunately, I was only able to get one of the news
48 releases in the book, and -- however, I've supplied you
49 with our news release regarding the changes in the personal
50 use and subsistence fishery from the 1999 December board

1 meeting, and also changes in the sport fishing regulations
2 that -- I actually won't go over those, but that's more
3 just for your background information. And then the third
4 piece is just a summary of the 1999 harvest and
5 participation in the personal use fishery, and then a
6 comparison of the two, now the two subsistence fisheries
7 that are done on the upper Copper River, and I'll just go
8 summarize through this sheet right now. Maybe I'll wait
9 'til all the -- everybody receives a copy.

10

11 In 1999 we issued 9,943 permits in the personal use
12 fishery, and resulted in a total harvest of nearly 150,000
13 salmon. Over 5900 of those were chinook salmon, and nearly
14 142,000 were sockeye salmon. Coho numbers were a little
15 bit below the average harvest for the last five and ten-
16 year periods. The harvest of chinook and sockeye were the
17 second highest on record, as were the number of permits
18 issues in the fishery. As you can see, that the amount of
19 local users in this fishery is relatively small. It's been
20 one percent of all participants are from the Copper River
21 Basin, with about equal split between -- or relatively
22 close to equal split between Anchorage and Fairbanks
23 residents, and then a smaller percentage of Mat-Su and then
24 other communities. And a lot of those other communities,
25 they range from Selawik, Barrow, you know, Tok. I mean,
26 they're all over the State that come down to participate in
27 that fishery.

28

29 The season this year went out to a slow start like
30 everything seemed to in the Copper River this year due to
31 numbers of fish passing the sonar, and so there were just
32 two very short openings. It did not open until June 11th,
33 which is the latest day it can open by regulation, and that
34 was just for a 36-hour opening. And then the following
35 week there was also another 36-hour opening, and then the
36 third week of June we had a five-day opening, and by the
37 first of July there were no fish passing the sonar where
38 the fishery remained opened continuous for the remainder of
39 the season.

40

41 I'll go on now to -- we're all aware of what
42 happened at the December meeting where this personal use
43 fishery was not classified a subsistence fishery by the
44 Board of Fisheries. What we have adopted are basically the
45 same regulations for the subsistence, this new subsistence
46 fishery, that apply to the personal use fishery, with the
47 exception that now that it's a subsistence fishery, you do
48 not need a fishing license, which was a requirement for the
49 personal use fishery. It's still open to all Alaska
50 residents. The gear type is dip net only. The season

1 length will be the same. It can open June 1st, but
2 generally it's all based upon the number of fish passing
3 the Miles Lake sonar, so it's still an abundance based
4 fishery. It will generally run by emergency order until
5 the end of August, and then it opens by regulation
6 September 1st for the coho portion of the run.

7

8 The old subsistence fishery, the Glennallen
9 subdistrict upstream of the bridge, there were no changes
10 to that fishery as a result of this. It's still open
11 September 1st and runs continuously through -- or June
12 1st.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: June 1st.

15

16 MR. TAUBE:and runs continuously
17 through September 30th. Again, according to the State
18 constitution, this is all -- open to all Alaska residents.
19 And Ellen's going to give a little summary of that
20 participation here as soon as I'm done here. That fishery
21 is for fish wheel and dip net, where the other fishery is
22 strictly dip net. Areas are still the same. The dip net
23 fishery is from the Chitina/McCarthy bridge downstream to
24 Haley Creek, approximately about ten, 11 river miles. The
25 old subsistence fishery runs from the Chitna/McCarthy
26 Bridge upstream to Slana. Annual limits are still the
27 same, with the exception that in the dip net fishery the
28 chinooks bag limit was reduced from four to one. The
29 reasoning for that was that the board felt that the
30 historic use, or harvest of chinook was more closely at the
31 level where one bag limit -- a one bag limit of chinook
32 would reach that level, and would -- still would probably
33 provide the opportunity to harvest a chinook. So we're
34 anticipating probably a reduction of about half of what
35 we've seen for chinook harvest in recent years in this
36 fishery now.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: In the dip net fishery?

39

40 MR. TAUBE: In the dip net fishery, yes.
41 The -- for a household of one, they still can take 15
42 salmon total, and a household of two or more can take 30
43 salmon. And there's still the option when there's a
44 surplus of 50,000 fish or more in a given week, they can
45 take ten additional salmon with coming and getting a
46 supplemental permit. And that's additive. They can -- in
47 a given week, they can get multiple permits for ten
48 additional fish if they feel they need the additional fish.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, in a single week they

00310

1 can get multiple additional permits of ten?

2

3 MR. TAUBE: Yes. If they have.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What happens if they catch
6 the ten, they can go get another permit and.....

7

8 MR. TAUBE: Right.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:catch another ten?

11

12 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. The idea with where they
13 have to come get another permit makes them think a little
14 bit whether or not.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Whether they need it or
17 not.

18

19 MR. TAUBE: Yes. We see -- it's -- this --
20 that regulation's been in effect for the past two years,
21 and in a given week, we have not taken more than 700 fish
22 with the supplemental permits, and.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But have individuals come
25 back for very many tens?

26

27 MR. TAUBE: The most I recall I think was
28 about -- someone came back five times for 50 additional
29 fish. But the number.....

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's a rare occasion?

32

33 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. The number of
34 supplemental permits we've issued has been around 60 or 70
35 in a week, and they have to get their 30 fish or 15 fish
36 first before we'll.....

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: First.

39

40 MR. TAUBE:give them the additional
41 ten-fish permit.

42

43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: They can't get the
44 supplemental permit, catch those fish and maintain their
45 other for the other weeks?

46

47 MR. TAUBE: No. No.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

50

1 MR. TAUBE: The access to the site is still
2 -- it crosses Ahtna and Chitna lands, and we're right now
3 currently in negotiations of setting the fee. In the past
4 it's been \$10, but in all likelihood it will either double
5 or more for this coming season. We're hoping to reach an
6 agreement here by March or April and put out another news
7 release and just -- well, also with the preliminary
8 schedule based upon the forecast of salmon runs.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, this would be a fee
11 not for the permit, but a fee directly for trespass?

12
13 MR. TAUBE: Strictly for access to the --
14 you know, crossing the lands to access the fishery. There
15 will be a portion of that fee that will go towards.....

16
17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Administration?

18
19 MR. TAUBE: Not administration, for port-a-
20 potties and dumpsters.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, wonderful.

23
24 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Which we've -- which has
25 been included -- the previous contract of the \$10, \$1 went
26 to that, to administration, the other nine went to -- was
27 split between Ahtna and Chitna and they then provided the
28 port-a-potties and dumpsters. But what we're working on
29 is, say, if the permit fee is \$20 for access, there would
30 be another \$5 on the permit strictly for providing
31 services, and that would include what we've -- we're trying
32 for is to provide services for the upriver subsistence
33 fishery at the bridge also. At least provide one dumpster
34 and.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because of the.....

37
38 MR. TAUBE:some port-a-potties there.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:fact you have such an
41 amount of people that are.....

42
43 MR. TAUBE: Yes, where the fish wheels are
44 there, and they'd have to -- they have to go across to the
45 camp ground there, and a lot of them choose not to do that,
46 so.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

49
50 MR. TAUBE:we're hoping to work that

00312

1 out this year also.

2

3 They'll -- both fisheries still will require
4 permits. The permits will -- well, the upriver subsistence
5 fishery will be the same, and the new permit for this one
6 will be basically identical where people have to punch out
7 every time they catch a fish and then record their harvest
8 at the end of the day. And they will need to turn it back
9 into our office at the end of each fishing trip so we can
10 track the weekly harvests.

11

12 Marking requirements are still the same. The tips
13 of the tail need to be removed immediately now. In the
14 personal use fishery, they had changed it to do it before
15 leaving the fishing site, but now that it's a subsistence
16 fishery, they need to remove the tails immediately just
17 like the other subsistence fishery.

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, when you way the tips
20 of the tail, do they just have to clip the far corners?
21 They don't have to take the whole.....

22

23 MR. TAUBE: Right.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:caudal fin off?

26

27 MR. TAUBE: Just the far corners.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Just so they rounded the
30 corners?

31

32 MR. TAUBE: Right. Yeah, so it's obvious
33 that they've been clipped to.....

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

36

37 MR. TAUBE:identify it as a.....

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So they don't have to
40 remove the whole tail?

41

42 MR. TAUBE: No. No.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

45

46 MR. TAUBE: No, that was clarified a couple
47 years ago I think for both the subsistence and the personal
48 use fisheries with the board -- I think it said caudal fin
49 and most people weren't familiar what a caudal fin was, and
50 so we went to tips of the tail.

00313

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, 'cause, see --
2 'cause I was under the impression that they had to remove
3 the whole.....

4
5 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:tail fin, and I
8 thought that was kind of drastic, but if they just
9 basically a half inch clip on each end is all.....

10
11 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:it takes.....

14
15 MR. TAUBE: Yep, that's all it takes.
16 Yeah. Yeah, a lot of times we'll recommend that people get
17 a pair of poultry shears, and they work real well.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Yeah, 'cause that
20 doesn't affect anything for hanging it up or.....

21
22 MR. TAUBE: Right.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:anything like that.

25
26 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Yeah. The recording --
27 reporting or recording requirements for both fisheries is
28 that they need to record their harvest before they leave
29 the fishing site, so for the fish wheels, it's when you
30 leave the fish wheel site, you just have to record what
31 your daily harvest is, and for the dip net -- dip netters,
32 it's from where they're leaving. Or where they were
33 fishing from.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Tom, back on that tail
36 thing.

37
38 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have -- as part of the
41 permit or where they pick up permits or anything, you know,
42 that's something -- I don't think I'm the only one that's
43 misunderstood that, because I've had other people complain
44 to me about having to cut the tail fin off. Have you got
45 visual pictures of what has to be done posted so that
46 people realize they don't have to cut the tail off?

47
48 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. At the Chitna office we
49 have diagrams there posted on the walls, and that's where
50 most of our permits.....

00314

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But you don't have it on
2 the permit card?

3

4 MR. TAUBE: Not on the permit card, no.
5 No.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

8

9 MR. TAUBE: It does -- I believe it says
10 tips of the tail on it now, but.....

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Because I know that
13 that's a misunderstanding.....

14

15 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that I've heard from
18 other people. At least that was all -- and, see, my
19 understanding of that was that you had to cut the tail fin
20 off.....

21

22 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and I could
25 understand the complaints on that.

26

27 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

28

29 MR. ELVSAAS: Ralph?

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah?

32

33 MR. ELVSAAS: In the Soldotna office or the
34 local office here, when you get a permit they give you a
35 sheet explaining the fishery, and it shows.....

36

37 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And it shows it in
40 pictures?

41

42 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

43

44 MR. ELVSAAS: Just cut the V out.

45

46 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

49

50 MR. TAUBE: In the past we've had a one-

00315

1 page flyer. In recent years, we just hand the whole
2 subsistence regulations, but, you know, just for cost
3 concerns we'll probably go to a flyer, and I could probably
4 get a diagram in there of.....

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

7
8 MR. TAUBE:showing it when we.....

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Show some.....

11
12 MR. TAUBE:issue the permit.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:alternatives so.....

15
16 MR. TAUBE:Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that -- so they don't
19 have to -- 'cause that's a -- I know that that's a
20 heartache or a misunderstanding that some people have.
21 Another question while I've got you there.

22
23 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is the mouth of Haley
26 Creek open, or does it start on the north bank of Haley
27 Creek?

28
29 MR. TAUBE: 200 yards upstream of Haley
30 Creek.

31
32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 200 yards upstream.

33
34 MR. TAUBE: And we have marker up there,
35 and we have markers on the far -- the west bank also to
36 show the line where they can't cross.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that that clear water
39 pool at the front of Haley Creek where they're so
40 vulnerable is off limits?

41
42 MR. TAUBE: Is off limits to dip netting.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

45
46 MR. TAUBE: People can sport fish down
47 there, and that's one of our major enforcement problems is
48 snagging in there.

49
50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

1 MR. TAUBE: But we try to keep on top of
2 that as much as we can.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

5
6 MR. TAUBE: In-river escapement goals for
7 the lower fishery, the dip net fishery were increased from
8 a straight allocation of 100,000 to a range of 100,000 to
9 150,000 salmon past the Miles Lake sonar. I believe
10 they're going to use a point estimate of 125,000 for the
11 actual escapement, in-river escapement goal. The upriver
12 subsistence fishery has been at 60 to 75,000 as a range for
13 salmon needed for that fishery since the '96 adjustments to
14 the management plan.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have we -- does that seem
17 to meet the needs? Do we -- have we been taking -- have --
18 on a yearly basis does the take -- you haven't shut it down
19 because the take has been reached, so has the take stayed
20 between that range?

21
22 MR. TAUBE: There's been -- with the dip
23 net fishery, with the 100,000, there's been enough surplus
24 above the escapement goal, and they've exceeded that
25 100,000. In the three years they've gotten between 140 and
26 150,000, and that's.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I wasn't too worried about
29 that one.....

30
31 MR. TAUBE: Oh, but the upriver? Yeah.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:but if -- I was
34 thinking of the upriver.

35
36 MR. TAUBE: Upriver?

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Has that 60 to 75,000 been
39 adequate for.....

40
41 MR. TAUBE: It has with the exception of it
42 -- one year I think they took 84,000, but that was the year
43 we also had.....

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Lots of extra fish

46
47 MR. TAUBE:a million fish in the
48 river passed the sonar. The average has been -- the five-
49 year average has been around 66,000, and the ten-year
50 average has been around 54,000. You know, I think with

00317

1 that fishery again it's -- if there's more fish in the
2 river, people will take more fish.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, if there's more fish
5 in the river, it's easier to catch them.

6

7 MR. TAUBE: Right. Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But there hasn't been any
10 shut downs or closures because.....

11

12 MR. TAUBE: No. No, the subsistence
13 fishery hasn't been closed down.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. And yet that
16 amount seems to have supplied it?

17

18 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

21

22 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. The one difference
23 between the two fisheries is that with the lower fishery,
24 the dip net fishery, steelhead or rainbow trout that are
25 incidently caught can't be retained. And that was
26 something that was kept on from the old regulations.
27 Basically permits are available for the dip net fishery in
28 the Chitna, Glennallen and also the Fairbanks office, and
29 the subsistence fishery, we've issued them from the
30 Glennallen, Chitna, they issue them out of the Tok office,
31 the Slana ranger station, the Chistochina Village Council
32 issues permits, and also Copper River Native Association
33 issues permits, too.

34

35 The over-all effect of this change for this up-
36 coming season is probably the big question. I guess I'm
37 anticipating that we may see some shift from the dip net
38 fishery up into the fish wheel and dip net fishery upriver,
39 because with a dip net there they're allowed to take five
40 kings. And for folks that want to be able to take more
41 kings, they may move upriver, and it would probably be more
42 likely the folks with boats, just because the access is
43 really limited, and we do stress that when we issue permits
44 for that upper fishery, is that there's limited access
45 there. There also may be a shift up there. You know, I
46 think we may have seen some of that last year a little bit
47 with our slight decline in dip net permits with the late
48 opening. People want a more consistent fishery where it
49 opens June 1st, and so they shifted up there, because there
50 was no closures on that.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if you register for
2 one area, you can't register for the other?

3
4 MR. TAUBE: That's correct. You can only
5 have one Copper River subsistence permit.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

8
9 MR. TAUBE: I would expect that we'd still
10 probably see about 11,000 total participants. You know,
11 10,000 of that with the dip net fishery, and about 1,000
12 with the subsistence fishery. I don't anticipate a large
13 increase.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Have you -- do they have
16 to register their boats if they dip net out of boats? Has
17 there been any documentation on boat usage, increase of
18 boat usage or anything like that?

19
20 MR. TAUBE: This past year was the first
21 year on the dip net permit where we asked people to record
22 whether they fish from a boat or shore. I believe it was
23 -- I think about 20 percent of the people fish from boats,
24 but we have nothing to compare that to, so this is like our
25 base number. The one thing that we did find out and it was
26 presented at the board meeting is that you're about twice
27 as likely to catch a king salmon from a boat than you are
28 from shore. And.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: At least twice as much.

31
32 MR. TAUBE: Yes. And that was -- there was
33 some discussion whether or not to eliminate boats from the
34 fishery altogether.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As nontraditional?

37
38 MR. TAUBE: As nontraditional, yeah. And
39 they just -- or have a personal use fishery where you could
40 just fish from boats, and have subsistence from shore, and
41 they just stayed with what the current level was, and felt
42 that by the bag limit reduction, they'd reduce the king
43 harvest.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Yeah, 'cause I --
46 'cause boats I know are nontraditional, and they do give
47 access to traditional area.

48
49 MR. TAUBE: Right.

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That one of the big
2 worries about this increase in subsistence, making these
3 people subsistence fishermen is that fact that all of a
4 sudden they are accessible to the area that's traditionally
5 been used by subsistence fishermen.

6
7 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And if they can take their
10 boats and run right up there, they can, you know, -- I mean
11 they've been able to do it in the past.....

12
13 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

14
15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:but larger numbers of
16 them could do it now.

17
18 MR. TAUBE: Yeah, there's really -- the
19 trespass issue is a real high priority. We try to let
20 people know, and even in our handouts, you know, to respect
21 the areas of concern, Tural and the grave sites along the
22 river. I think in the contract right now we're -- there's
23 some discussion whether or not people can access the east
24 bank, the far bank or not. And there is a portion below
25 ordinary high water where they can access what's State land
26 there, but.....

27
28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

29
30 MR. TAUBE:going up above is an area
31 whether or not they'll be able -- be allowed with the
32 trespass fee to go above or not, is still being negotiated.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Like the old
35 village site.....

36
37 MR. TAUBE: Yes. Yeah.

38
39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:places like that.
40 Yeah. Fred?

41
42 MR. F. JOHN: Tom, I know a lot of people
43 in our area is pretty angry about, you know, that.....

44
45 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

46
47 MR. F. JOHN:fishery down, and we're
48 worried about, you know, the trespass over Ahtna land.....

49
50 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

1 MR. F. JOHN:and access to the place,
2 and it's -- it does cross some Ahtna land where the access
3 is, you know.

4
5 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

6
7 MR. F. JOHN: And I was going to say, are
8 you prepared for anything like if Ahtna just shut up their
9 land good to everybody?

10
11 MR. TAUBE: There's certain stretches of
12 the right of way.....

13
14 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

15
16 MR. TAUBE:that go to ordinary high
17 water. We would have to have a survey done in the area to
18 actually show those areas. With a rough survey, we've
19 estimated it's probably about 40 percent of the area down.
20 It goes from the road right of -- or the railroad right of
21 way to ordinary high water line. That's an option we'd
22 prefer not to have to go to, just because it would cause
23 increased congestion, and it would cause more problems.
24 We'd like to be able to deal with having an access
25 agreement with Ahtna and Chitna.

26
27 MR. F. JOHN: What about just trespassing
28 over Ahtna land except, you know, there's -- if Ahtna do
29 agreement, I know that they'll have it on a road or
30 something, but about all the Chitna and Ahtna land. Would
31 the State -- would the State of Alaska, you know, protect
32 -- arrest the trespassers? 'Cause they haven't -- I mean,
33 to me, they haven't (indiscernible) yet.

34
35 MR. TAUBE: That -- I guess the State
36 recognizes Ahtna and Chitna as private land owners and as
37 any private land owner, they're responsible for, you know,
38 policing their own lands. I mean, we don't have the staff
39 or.....

40
41 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

42
43 MR. TAUBE:money to try to enforce
44 trespass on private lands.

45
46 MR. F. JOHN: But did they realize that
47 changing the, you know, the personal fishery to subsistence
48 fishery, to me it would increase people coming down there?
49 And it seems like there would be more trespassing, more
50 garbage and everything.....

1 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

2

3 MR. F. JOHN:on private land and
4 everything, and how wold the State, you know -- what would
5 the State do to help out on that, or -- 'cause.....

6

7 MR. TAUBE: Well, we're -- I guess we're
8 not really anticipating an increase in the number of people
9 coming down just because it went from personal use to
10 subsistence. The -- it's still somewhat a difficult
11 fishery to access even down the road, and even to
12 participate in. We did see the peak of -- or an increase
13 in participation in '97, and I think that was more
14 responsible due to the pub- -- publicity of the strong
15 sockeye return in the Copper River, and I think we saw an
16 increase of new people come in. I've often wondered, you
17 know, -- a lot of people are still not aware that according
18 to the State constitution they're eligible for the upriver
19 fishery, and I think where we've seen an increase in
20 nonrural residents participating in that fishery in recent
21 years is that the word's getting out that with the McDowell
22 decision they're eligible for that also. But I think what
23 we see mainly is that those are shifting from the personal
24 use fishery, or the old personal use fishery into that
25 other fishery. But with the -- to work out our trespass, I
26 guess that's why we're looking at trying to get a trespass
27 agreement where there is an access fee that's paid to cover
28 that. And then the upriver fishery, there's no fee or no
29 agreement regarding that, and we just tell people that
30 there's -- the State access points are really at the
31 bridge, and that's it, and they're -- it's their
32 responsibility to look at the land ownership and determine
33 where they can go and where they can't.

34

35 MS. SWAN: Mr. Chairman?

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Clare?

38

39 MS. SWAN: I'm just wondering about,
40 besides trespass, about the fishery itself. How about do
41 you -- will there be adequate people to enforce the fish
42 taking itself to the -- you know, so that people are not --
43 especially if you fish in a boat?

44

45 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh. They do. There's only
46 two access points really, or three access points, you can
47 launch a boat from. One's at the Chitna McCarthy Bridge,
48 one's at O'Brian Creek, and one's at Haley Creek, and we do
49 have staff that goes out and collects biological samples.
50 And in the past we've -- they've actually done enforcement,

1 write tickets and that, too. We've been asked by
2 protection to kind of cut back on that, because our staff
3 that does that is seasonal, and they're not there when the
4 cases come to court. What we'll probably be doing is
5 writing a violation notice, just a warning and then pass
6 that on to protection. But protection has increased their
7 staff down there during the fishery. In June and July they
8 have two additional protection officers that do come down
9 to the fishery, and basically they've got two guys working
10 12-hour shifts around the clock in June and July.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So they have
13 increased.....

14

15 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:enforcement in the
18 area?

19

20 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. And they're aware of it,
21 that it's an area of concern, and when we provide a report
22 to enforcement on areas where we feel there's a need for
23 additional enforcement, that's one of the top ones.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that answer your
26 question, Clare? Tom, one of the -- a member of the
27 audience had a question for you. Could I.....

28

29 MS. EWAN: Yeah, I worked for the Gulkana
30 River Derby for Ahtna Heritage last summer. And the fish
31 and game officer never been on the Gulkana River to watch
32 violations, and that have been occurred with the sport
33 fishermen, and they have a limit that they only have to
34 catch for the year. And these fishing guides were coming
35 into the river. There's no environmental impact statement
36 on the impact they have on the Klutina River since it's a
37 low river capacity, and I noticed that the sport fishermen,
38 they never get -- the guides, they don't get no -- the Fish
39 and Game is there, but they don't look into his boats when
40 they pull in to see how many salmon they caught in that
41 boat. Because I've seen 12 jack salmon, king salmon, and
42 five kings in boat and they had four customers and two
43 guides on that. And I told that State Trooper, how come
44 you don't take a look at this case here? And I've seen
45 trespass happen on Ahtna land, people come in there and
46 they wouldn't even do anything about them, give them a
47 citation, anything.

48

49 I think the Federal Government, the Federal
50 subsistence, and the State subsistence should put a

1 regulation in there that when you do -- like, for instance,
2 when my elder, Peter Tyron, told us he had fish in his
3 wheel, we went down there. Three times this person been
4 down to that wheel, and helped himself with this fish
5 wheel, took all his fish out. I went down there to help
6 him, and there was no fish in there. We stopped the guy,
7 we wrote his license plate down, and we said -- we called
8 the Troopers, we called Fish and Game. Do you think they
9 showed up? No, nothing ever happened to any of these
10 cases. That the local native people has faced a big impact
11 on the river.

12
13 And another thing I'd like to see that the Fish and
14 Game and the Federal people respect is that we have
15 territorial fishing grounds and fish camps, and if there an
16 access to that road, and a non native come in there, they
17 just throw a fish wheel in here, a fish wheel there.
18 Pretty soon we have all these happy hunting campers, you
19 know, coming along. No respect to our grounds and what's
20 going on. Help themselves with our fish wheels. They come
21 up with the boats on the river, they help themselves with
22 the fish wheel. There is not enforcement. I live there.
23 I know what is going on in there. And I know we've
24 addressed this three or four times at different conferences
25 and tell them that there is no protections of the natives
26 land and that native land should fall into the Federal
27 regulations, because if they're going to work government-
28 to-government relationship, they have to make control of
29 this somehow.

30
31 And that person who stole that fish, he came back
32 three times to that village to other people's wheel in
33 Gulkana, and you have to go through the village to go
34 there, and there's no way that we have any control over our
35 village as to what happens, and the impact. Like on the
36 Klutina River, when I seen that violation happen, and I
37 told Fish and Game about it, do you think they went down to
38 pick up those guys? No, because I went down to the mouth
39 of Klutina River and I watched them. All they did was
40 throw it in the freezer, have the guides cut it up, throw
41 it in a package and off they were gone to wherever the hell
42 they came from. Thank you.

43
44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Faye. I think
45 that's some -- that's a frustration that we all share in
46 just about every area that I've been, that we -- there
47 aren't enough enforcement agents for one thing, and we all
48 see things that happen that are wrong, and we can't get
49 anybody to do anything about it. And I know I've heard
50 this a real lot from, you know, the Chitna/Copper Center

1 area. And I've -- we've seen the same thing in Cordova,
2 and it's just -- it's really hard to get a response, and I
3 recognize what the problem is, is it's hard for somebody to
4 respond in time, and if they don't respond in time, there's
5 nothing they can do about it.

6

7 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh. Yeah.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: But that's -- that to me
10 is if we're going to -- if we're going to have this kind of
11 a complicated fishery, and we're going to have all these
12 different allocations on the salmon, and we come up with
13 rules and regulations, we need somehow or another to get it
14 across that you have to have enforcement to make --
15 otherwise these rules and regulations don't mean a
16 thing.....

17

18 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

19

20 MS. EWAN: Yeah, they don't mean nothing to
21 them.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:you know, and what
24 happens is each group sees the other group violating the
25 law and can't get any response it. And so then they end up
26 doing the same -- you know, they end up getting
27 frustrating, and saying, well, it's not worthwhile worrying
28 about it, and I'm glad to hear that at least they've a
29 couple people on in Chitna, because I can remember some of
30 the things that I've seen there in the personal use fishery
31 that maybe if there's somebody just looking around and
32 checking to see whether they've punched their tags will
33 make a difference, you know.

34

35 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. Yeah, with the
36 enforcement of trespass and stuff, we've talked with the
37 Troopers, and the response we've got from them a lot is
38 that if the land isn't signed, they can't do anything
39 regarding trespass, which is a difficult thing for them to
40 do. You know, one of the enforcement guys down at Chitna
41 is from our Glennallen office, so that leave one other
42 protection officer in Glennallen, and, you know, you talk
43 with enforcement, and their budgets have been cut, and
44 their staffing has been.....

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know.

47

48 MR. TAUBE:reduced dramatically, so
49 the enforcement is just -- as more and more people come to
50 the State, whether they're residents or nonresidents, it's

00325

1 just an issue that we don't know how to handle. I
2 mean.....

3

4 MR. F. JOHN: You know, talking about
5 putting no trespassing sign up. Every year our land
6 committee put up trespassing sign. The next day it's down.

7

8 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. We have the same problem
9 with our metal signs that, you know, we put concrete.....

10

11 MR. F. JOHN: Well, we tried to imitate
12 you.

13

14 MR. TAUBE:posts and that, and they
15 disappear, too. Yeah.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

18

19 MS. SWAN: I think it's even more
20 frustrating when someone does be cited or get a ticket. In
21 the middle of the winter you see in the paper these long
22 lists of people who have been charged, and every one of the
23 cases have been dismissed.

24

25 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

26

27 MS. SWAN: So, you know, it's.....

28

29 MR. TAUBE: It's frustrating from our side,
30 too. I mean, I've talked with our local protection
31 officers that have issued a lot of tickets, and a lot of
32 it's with the local magistrate in Glennallen right now
33 doesn't have a whole lot of support for going through with
34 fish violations in particular. A lot of them do get thrown
35 out. And I don't know how we can resolve that.

36

37 MS. EWAN: Unless you're from here, and
38 then you go to jail. (Indiscernible)

39

40 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman?

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Fred?

43

44 MR. ELVSAAS: I just wanted to comment
45 right now on signs. We like everybody have had a problem
46 with signs, and we invested a lot of money in signs. We've
47 tried metal signs, wood signs. We find the best signs are
48 the fiberform signs. You can shoot holes through it all
49 day long and then still read it. And they do. But a metal
50 sign, you know, five shots, and you can't read what it

00326

1 says. Wooden signed are used for fire starters, and.....

2

3 MS. EWAN: And that's not trespassing

4 signs.

5

6 MR. ELVSAAS:but the fiberform, those

7 that you see the politicians use around, they work the

8 best.

9

10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, that's worth

11 knowing. Tom, have you got more for us?

12

13 MR. TAUBE: That's all I have. I guess one

14 thing I could reply to Fred's response about removing

15 beaver dams. There is a general permit that as long as you

16 use hand tools, you know, you.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You can't use dynamite in

19 other words?

20

21 MR. TAUBE: You can't use dynamite, can't

22 use backhoes. But, you know, rakes, and the best time to

23 do it is in the spring.

24

25 MR. F. JOHN: What did you say you've

26 got.....

27

28 MR. TAUBE: We use like rakes and, you

29 know, hand saws and stuff like that to pull them out. But

30 a lot of times you can just by hand. If it's not one of

31 these larger ones. I know the one by Chistochina Village

32 there, that's a very large.....

33

34 MR. F. JOHN: Cleaning out a creek, what we

35 do, we just went out there and try.....

36

37 MR. TAUBE: Pull it out. That's what we've

38 done. Like Moose Creek, right in Glennallen, there's a

39 problem with beaver blocking grayling migration, and we've

40 just gone out in the spring when the water is high, and all

41 it takes is a few sticks, and they'll start pulling them

42 out. The big problem is removing the beaver, because once

43 you pull a dam, the beaver will come back in and.....

44

45 MS. SWAN: And fix it.

46

47 MR. TAUBE:rebuild. But there is

48 just a general permit that you can do it without getting a

49 special permit.

50

00327

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. But you do have --
2 do you have to get the permit in advance?

3
4 MR. TAUBE: I need to doublecheck with
5 that, and if I can get a fax number, I can fax you the
6 permit. I think it's just a general blanket permit that
7 Habitat Division has put in for beaver dam removal as long
8 as you're doing it with hand tools.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that would include
11 chainsaw?

12
13 MR. TAUBE: That I'd have to doublecheck.
14 That was one thing -- I didn't say chainsaw, because I'm
15 not certain on that. And I'll have to doublecheck with
16 that.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Now, the other
19 question is, you know, if -- like you said, the problem is
20 beaver removal after the dam is removed. If the board
21 passes the beaver hunting season.....

22
23 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:then that problem can
26 be handled right there underneath.....

27
28 MR. TAUBE: Right.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that permit?

31
32 MR. TAUBE: Yes.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or underneath that law.

35
36 MR. TAUBE: Uh-huh.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Then you could remove the
39 dam and then remove the beavers, and eat the beavers.....

40
41 MR. TAUBE: Yeah.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and the dam wouldn't
44 come back.

45
46 MR. TAUBE: Yeah. And that's -- I mean,
47 the problem is most times there's more than one beaver at
48 these sites. I know that one we trapped out on Moose
49 Creek, and we got a special permit from Bob Tobey to do
50 that, and we took five beaver out of the one area. So

00328

1 there's a lot more than one there a lot of times. But
2 that's all I had.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for
5 Tom? Let's go on to Ellen.

6

7 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah, I think commercial
8 fish, that this will be our only year with management -- or
9 keeping track of the numbers of the subsistence harvest, so
10 next year you'll hear them from Tom again. We issued a
11 little over 1100 permits this year, and with 89 percent of
12 the permits reporting, the sockeye catch was a little over
13 70,000, and the chinook catch was about 2900 fish for a
14 total of about 73,500. And that's with 89 percent of the
15 permits reporting.

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, this is for which
18 fishery?

19

20 MS. SIMPSON: This is for the subsistence
21 fishery on the Copper River, upper Copper River.

22

23 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: On the upper Copper River,
24 okay.

25

26 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So how many sockeye?

29

30 MS. SIMPSON: 70,000.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Seventy. So it was within
33 the range of -- yeah.

34

35 MS. SIMPSON: It looks like it's going to
36 come out like at the high end of the range, maybe a little
37 bit more. But it's the second largest harvest and the
38 second largest number of permits ever issued for the
39 fishery. And most of those permits, 37 percent, came from
40 the Copper River Basin.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thirty-seven percent?

43

44 MS. SIMPSON: Thirty-seven percent.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's not most of them.

47

48 MS. SIMPSON: Well, by -- well, by

49 percentage.

50

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The highest percentage.

2

3 MS. SIMPSON: The highest percentage,
4 Ralph.

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The highest percentage is
7 Copper Basin. Okay.

8

9 MS. SIMPSON: And 28 percent came from
10 Anchorage.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

13

14 MS. SIMPSON: Okay? And then other
15 communities were 14 percent, Mat-Su Valley was 11, and
16 Fairbanks was ten. Okay. And then.....

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And that was on the
19 upstream subsistence fishery?

20

21 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah, the.....

22

23 MR. TAUBE: The fish wheel.

24

25 MS. SIMPSON: The fish wheel, the
26 traditional.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The fish wheel, dip net
29 upstream.

30

31 MS. SIMPSON: Right. The -- we're in past
32 history now I guess.

33

34 The other table that I submitted for the -- for
35 your report was the forecast, and it looks like this year
36 we're going to have a pretty average year across Central
37 Region, with a couple of exceptions. The sockeye return
38 for the Copper River is expected to be about an average
39 return this year with an average catch, so there should be
40 an adequate number of fish for subsistence and personal use
41 escapement purposes. The same with pink salmon. Chum
42 salmon though, because of the excellent return that -- to
43 Wally Normberg hatchery, they're expecting a very good
44 year. However, there's a lot of variability in the
45 forecast because of changing hatchery techniques, rearing
46 procedures, so we'll have to wait and see how that comes
47 out. Let's see. Upper Copper River -- or upper Cook Inlet
48 sockeye salmon forecast is about -- is a little bit below
49 average for -- compared with the last ten years.

50

00330

1 And the other -- kind of the bleak picture is in
2 the -- is in lower Cook Inlet pink salmon forecast. The --
3 most of that forecast will be for the Tetka Hatchery
4 facility, and most of that will probably be taken in cost
5 recovery. So there is likely not to be a very big
6 commercial catch. And the wild pink forecast for the wild
7 pink streams is reduced, and they expect an escapement
8 shortfall in those streams.

9
10 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ellen, did you say the
11 upper Copper River is below forecast, or was it the -- just
12 the.....

13
14 MS. SIMPSON: Upper Cook Inlet.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The upper Cook Inlet.
17 Okay.

18
19 MS. SIMPSON: Sorry. I got my.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Upper Cook Inlet.

22
23 MS. SIMPSON:Cooks and Coppers.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I thought so, because you
26 went right to Cook Inlet pink salmon.....

27
28 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:and so.....

31
32 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:it's upper Cook Inlet
35 is below?

36
37 MS. SIMPSON: Upper Cook Inlet is a
38 slightly lower than.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

41
42 MS. SIMPSON:the last ten years
43 harvest.

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: Can I ask a question?

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes.

48
49 MR. ELVSAAS: How about the lower Cook
50 Inlet red salmon fishery? That's gotten to be more the

00331

1 money fishery for the seiners than the pink salmon.....

2

3 MS. SIMPSON: You're right.

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS:because of the Tetka
6 cost recovery problems, and the wild fish not responding
7 well.

8

9 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah, we don't do a forecast
10 for the lower Cook Inlet red.

11

12 MR. ELVSAAS: But there are some
13 enhancement programs.

14

15 MS. SIMPSON: Right. You're absolutely
16 right.

17

18 MR. ELVSAAS: And so that has saved the
19 seiners (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20

21 MS. SIMPSON: You're absolutely right. It
22 has China Poot Bay and.....

23

24 MR. ELVSAAS: Right.

25

26 MS. SIMPSON:Kirschner Lake, Hazel.
27 Yeah. Any other questions?

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any other questions for
30 Ellen? Yeah.

31

32 MR. VLASOFF: Yeah. Are there numbers for
33 the mouth of the Copper River subsistence?

34

35 MS. SIMPSON: You know, I don't have those,
36 and I can send them to you if you want to give me a fax
37 number or e-mail. I asked for them, and I don't -- I'm not
38 sure that they have them -- have the.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Prepared.

41

42 MS. SIMPSON:permits tallied quite
43 yet.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's probably a fairly --
46 I -- it's.....

47

48 MS. SIMPSON: It's small.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's a small -- I think

00332

1 last year it was just in the thousand, wasn't it, somewhere
2 in the -- if I remember right in the.....

3

4 MS. SIMPSON: I think so, and then.....

5

6 MR. VLASOFF: I don't think we're allowed
7 very much.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, you're allowed 15
10 there.

11

12 MS. SIMPSON: Yeah, it's a small number and
13 the same with the catch from the remainder of Prince
14 William Sound, the other species in Prince William.....

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think the.....

17

18 MS. SIMPSON:Sound is very small.

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:whole thing was less
21 -- a little a little bit over -- just barely over 1,000
22 sockeye.

23

24 Any other questions for Ellen? Thank you. Okay.
25 Now I'm going to take -- I'm going to let us all take.....

26

27 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

28

29 MS. SWAN: A break.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:a five-minute break.

32

33 (Off record)

34

35 (On record)

36

37 MS. EAKON: I forgot to mention that our
38 office is going to move, so.....

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Can you do that
41 under new business? Or do you want to do it now?

42

43 MS. EAKON: Under reports, because it's
44 part of reports.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. How about if we
47 have your amendment to your report right now then, Helga?

48

49 MS. EAKON: Okay. Thank you. I need --
50 Mr. Chair, I neglected to inform you that our office is

00333

1 going to be moving to the Frontier Building. We're going
2 to occupy a portion of the 10th floor. And this will occur
3 after the May board meeting.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And this will be on what
6 street?

7

8 MS. SWAN: C.

9

10 MS. EAKON: 3601 C Street.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So you're still on
13 C Street. You'll be on C Street.

14

15 MS. EAKON: Suite 1030. Anyway.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

18

19 MS. EAKON:I'm going to give each of
20 you a brochure with our -- that has the new addresses.

21

22 MR. F. JOHN: I know where it is.

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you, Helga.

25

26 MS. EAKON: You're welcome.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Do you have
29 anything else for us then?

30

31 MS. EAKON: And that is it, thank you.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Helga, did you have
34 anything else or just that?

35

36 MS. EAKON: No, just that.

37

38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. With that we're
39 going on to agenda item 8.E, which is the call for
40 proposals to change Federal subsistence fisheries
41 regulation and a Katie John update from the National Park
42 Service. I don't know if that's two items, or will you do
43 the call for proposals, too?

44

45 MR. GERHARD: I'll do both.

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you.

48

49 MR. GERHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
50 members of the Council. My name is Bob Gerhard, I'm with

1 the National Park Service. I work in our regional
2 director's office in Anchorage.

3

4 I'm not sure if we've discussed this yet this week,
5 but if you'll look at tab W, I'll talk about the call for
6 proposals first, and then give you a brief update on the
7 Katie John fishery. Now, I think everybody's familiar with
8 the wildlife regulations. We've been working with that for
9 a number of years, and now we're in the fish business. And
10 the fish business is going to be similar in the regulatory
11 arena to the wildlife cycle that you're very familiar with.
12 The only difference is it will be kind of opposite in time.
13 You've seen the Federal regulations we're operating under
14 now. They were actually published back in January of 1999,
15 but did not become effective until October 1st of '99.
16 These are the regulations for the 2000 fishing season. And
17 very shortly you should be getting a copy, I guess it'll
18 come in the mail, of the fisheries book which will look
19 something like this. This will take the Federal Register
20 regulations and put them into a more user friendly version.
21 I think this is supposed to be -- it's at the publishers
22 now. It should be -- the mailing, distribution should be
23 begin in the next week or two. So you should have that
24 very soon.

25

26 But we're already in the process of the 2001
27 fishing season, and developing the regulations for that.
28 And that's where, you know, as right now you're
29 deliberating on wildlife proposals for next year, this fall
30 in your fall in your fall meeting, you'll be deliberating
31 on fishery proposals for the 2001 fishing season. And
32 that's -- that is explained in your tab W, the process and
33 the timing is on the first sheet. And then the proposal
34 form is the second sheet, and there's extra copies of the
35 proposal form.

36

37 But of particular importance is the fact that the
38 proposal period for 2001 fish regulations is right now.
39 And that period ends on March 27th, so this month is the
40 closing time for the proposal periods. And then as usual,
41 there will be a period for public comment on those
42 proposals, and then as I said, you'll be deliberating in
43 your fall meetings. So that's the process.

44

45 Oh, one other thing I wanted to mention is just
46 that as you probably know, the regulations we have now for
47 the 2001 year were for the most part just adopted.....

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: For 2000, yeah.

50

1 MR. GERHARD: For 2000, were adopted from
2 the existing State regulations, at least the existing State
3 regulations at the time these were published. So -- and
4 that was a deliberate step on the Federal Board's process
5 to ease into this new Federal management. So the
6 regulations, although they read differently because these
7 regulations read in Federal language, and the State
8 regulations read in State language and they're not always
9 -- we don't always speak quite the same language. But --
10 so it's important that you take a look at the regulations.
11 As I say, it will be nicer -- easier for you when you see
12 the user friendly booklet, but you should have the Federal
13 Register version to look at the regulations for this area
14 and see if those are the correct regulations, and that
15 that's how they should be crafted.

16
17 So that was pretty much what I wanted to say about
18 the call for proposals. Are there any questions on that?

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So the proposals that are
21 submitted now will be for the year 2001?

22
23 MR. GERHARD: And one.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I would imagine that we'll
26 probably get a lot more proposals next year after the
27 fisheries been managed for a year than we would when
28 nobody's seen how it's worked. Then if I understand right,
29 in our fall meeting, we're going to be handling the
30 regulatory proposals that are submitted this spring, and
31 we'll be handling the project proposals that will come
32 before us. That's the two things that's going to be in our
33 fall meeting. That's going to be the two big items in our
34 fall meeting, and we may have to look and see what the
35 volume of them are, and make a decision then as to how long
36 a meeting we're going to have to have.

37
38 MR. GERHARD: Yeah. Of course, we'll know
39 by the end of this month how.....

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And as soon as.....

42
43 MR. GERHARD:many proposals came in.

44
45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: As soon as the proposals
46 are in, then we'll receive copies of them, right?

47
48 MR. GERHARD: Yes, it will mirror the same
49 way that.....

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

2

3 MR. GERHARD:and you've gotten them
4 for wildlife. I mean, they'll be compiled and then.....

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. And an
7 assessment.....

8

9 MR. GERHARD:put out.

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:made of them, and
12 recommendations and things like that then?

13

14 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

15

16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. And then the second
17 section?

18

19 MR. GERHARD: Katie John. We put this --
20 Helga wanted us to do a quick update on Katie John, because
21 it kind of ties to the regulatory process that I just went
22 over. And I don't want to get too detailed into this, but,
23 of course, the Katie John fishery has been much in the news
24 for many years. And I thought I'd do at least a quick
25 review of how the fishery at Batzulnetas, now Katie John's
26 fishery has been managed. Of course, it was managed under
27 State regulation for -- up until this year, and the State
28 actually had a Batzulnetas fishery in the Prince William
29 Sound area that -- in their regulations that you could take
30 salmon from Batzulnetas under the terms of a permit, and it
31 had some conditions on that permit, primarily -- well, it
32 talked about when you could fish, how you could fish, and
33 it limited the fishing openings to specific fish periods
34 which would be established by emergency order.

35

36 And in the Katie John litigation, the plaintiffs
37 complained that that still wasn't meeting their traditional
38 practices, and so for I don't know how many years, but a
39 number of years, the judge in the Katie John lawsuit has
40 issued an injunction that stipulated the State could not
41 enforce its regulations as they were published, but then
42 the judge set out some stipulations for how the fishery
43 could occur. And the primary change between the regulation
44 and the injunction language was that the injunction said
45 the fishing could occur seven days a week. And it did
46 limit the fishery to 1,000 sockeye, no more than 250 a
47 week, but still was a permit fishery, and that the permits
48 had to be returned and reported back to ADF&G.

49

50 Well, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, when we

1 developed the Federal regulations, we were for the most
2 part just copying over the State regulations. So following
3 that, we copied the State regulations for the Batzulnetas
4 fishery, so it still had the language limiting to, you
5 know, two days a week I believe in June and three and a
6 half days a week. So since the Katie John litigation is
7 still open, the judge just recently issued the same
8 injunction, and the only change in the injunction is that
9 it enjoins the Federal government from.....

10

11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Enforcing.

12

13 MR. GERHARD:enforcing our
14 regulation, and laid out the terms which are the same as
15 they have been for a number of years. So in a way, for the
16 plaintiffs, the situation hasn't changed a whole lot.

17

18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Hasn't changed, right.

19

20 MR. GERHARD: They.....

21

22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: A seven-day a week
23 fishery?

24

25 MR. GERHARD: Seven-day a week fishing,
26 limited to 1,000 sockeye, no more than 250 a week. Catch
27 results reported weekly to the Cordova office of Alaska
28 Department of Fish and Game, so still ADF&G permit,
29 although it's under the Federal regulation. But I think
30 the reason that it's good to discuss this at the same time
31 as the subject I just talked about was there may be an
32 opportunity now to put in a regulatory change to the 2001
33 fishing regulations that could get everyone out of having
34 to depend on a court injunction every year.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That could mirror the
37 court injunction is what you're saying, or add to it,
38 or.....

39

40 MR. GERHARD: Or what else, yes.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, can that regula- --
43 does that regulatory change, you know, -- in the State
44 system, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game can also
45 propose proposal, and they do propose them all of the time
46 for cleaning up regulations and things like that. Can a
47 proposal like this come from the Federal management side,
48 the same as it comes from the Fish and Game management
49 side, or does it have to come from the public?

50

1 MR. GERHARD: I think anyone can submit a
2 proposal.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Including you, including
5 the Federal managers could put in a proposal to abide.....

6
7 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh. Yeah.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:to go along.....

10
11 MR. GERHARD: Yeah.

12
13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that regulation then --
14 I mean, if, you know, as managers you see this is something
15 that needs cleaned up.....

16
17 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh.

18
19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:then you should
20 definitely make sure that there's a proposal in there so it
21 can be acted on.

22
23 MR. GERHARD: Uh-huh.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Even if nobody else puts a
26 proposal in there.

27
28 MR. GERHARD: I think it's.....

29
30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The State's the same way.

31
32 MR. GERHARD: I think it's safe to say that
33 this would be a good area for a proposal to be developed.
34 It's -- unfortunately, the Federal government and the
35 plaintiffs are still in litigation, and we've been
36 cautioned to be careful in how we work together, but I
37 think that there should be an opportunity here somehow to
38 get together now. One thing that I think folks need to
39 think about is that the injunction is specific to the
40 plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

43
44 MR. GERHARD: The plaintiffs are Katie
45 John, Doris Charles, and the Mentasta Traditional Council.

46
47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right, it's not the
48 general public.

49
50 MR. GERHARD: No, it's not the general

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1 public. Now there is -- there has been a c&t finding again
2 which is basically brought over from the State that c&t for
3 salmon there is residents of the Prince William Sound area.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

6

7 MR. GERHARD: So I just think that needs to
8 be considered in the development of a regulation change
9 that you don't want to do I guess more than you think you
10 are intending to do.

11

12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Can I ask a question? As
13 far as Tanada Creek is concerned, isn't that all on private
14 land? Isn't it? Or is it (indiscernible - simultaneous
15 speech).

16

17 MR. GERHARD: The Federal program is.....

18

19 MR. F. JOHN: It goes through private land,
20 yeah.

21

22 MR. GERHARD: It's -- there's private land,
23 yeah, in that vicinity. The Federal regulations apply to
24 all waters within the units.

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No, what I was thinking of
27 is in this case here, I was under the impression that that
28 was either native allotment or native land that the.....

29

30 MR. F. JOHN: It's native allotment.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's a native allotment.

33

34 MR. GERHARD: There's native allotment,
35 yes.

36

37 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically that land
38 isn't open to the general public?

39

40 MR. GERHARD: It's private land.

41

42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right. It's private land.

43

44 MR. GERHARD: Yeah. By that -- yeah, so
45 that's another.....

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So that regulations that
48 apply to Tanada Creek, aren't going to apply to the general
49 public. They're going to apply to those that have access
50 to the land.

1 MR. GERHARD: Well, it's -- they would
2 apply to those -- that group of people who have c&t.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

5
6 MR. GERHARD: But to get there is the issue
7 you're talking about, access.

8
9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

10
11 MR. GERHARD: I mean, the regulation would
12 apply, but access may be limited by the private landowner.

13
14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: By the private landholder.

15
16
17 MR. GERHARD: So that may satisfy the
18 concerns I just raised in.....

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

21
22 MR. GERHARD:a change in the
23 regulations.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. 'Cause I can see
26 your fear that if you opened it the seven-day a week, you
27 open it to everybody for seven-day a week, and you might
28 end up having people say, well, that's the only place open,
29 I'll go up there.

30
31 MR. GERHARD: Could be.

32
33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh. Okay. That.....

34
35 MR. GERHARD: That's everything I have
36 unless there's any other questions.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anybody have any
39 questions? Thank you muchly.

40
41 MR. GERHARD: You bet.

42
43 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I mean, I'm going to ask
44 you a question, I should have asked you a question while --
45 before I closed you off. If nobody else puts a proposal in
46 on that, do you feel that the -- for this year that the
47 Federal managers will put a proposal in, or will they be
48 willing to ride with the injunction for another year until
49 they see to develop something?

1 MR. GERHARD: I'm not sure I can answer
2 that completely apart -- I mean, the injunction is tied to
3 the litigation which.....

4
5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

6
7 MR. GERHARD:you know, I can't really
8 speak to, but I think it's -- from discussions within the
9 Park Service, I think it's safe so say we feel there's an
10 opportunity to have a change in these regulations.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

13
14 MR. GERHARD: So I think it's safe to say
15 that we'll try to work with the right people to see that
16 something happens.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Thank you, Bob.

19
20 MR. GERHARD: Was that good enough?

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's good enough. Let's
23 -- okay. We are now on new business. The first thing on
24 our item on new business is a request from Eastern Interior
25 that we have a joint liaison counsel working group I guess
26 is what you'd call it with Eastern Interior, and we'd like
27 to -- and I guess basically what we need to do is we need to
28 request that the Fish and Wildlife Service provide funding
29 so that a couple members of our Council can attend Eastern
30 Interior, and a couple members of their Council can attend
31 ours, and we can have people who work together. And I
32 think those people should be people who are kind of on the
33 border. It doesn't do much good for me down in Prince
34 William Sound, or the Chitna area to work with Eastern
35 Interior, but we do have a couple people on our Council who
36 are very close to Eastern Interior that would probably be
37 very applicable to be those liaisons going back and forth.
38 I think what we need is we just need to as.....

39
40 MR. F. JOHN: Ask those.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:a Council -- we need
43 as a Council to submit a request to the Fish and Wildlife
44 Service that this be allowed and be funded.

45
46 MS. SWAN: Do you need a motion?

47
48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think we need a motion.

49
50 MS. SWAN: So move.

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1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved. Do I
2 hear a second?

3
4 MR. VLASOFF: Second.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved and
7 seconded that we recommend to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
8 Service that in order to facilitate communications with
9 Eastern Interior, we be funded and allowed a liaison or
10 working group of two people who can go to Eastern Interior
11 meetings, and Eastern Interior can come to ours. Does that
12 sound about what we want to say?

13
14 MS. SWAN: Yeah.

15
16 MR. VLASOFF: Uh-huh.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Any discussion? I think
19 we've discussed this among ourselves, so.....

20
21 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah, we discussed it before.

22
23 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

24
25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. So.....

26
27 MR. F. JOHN: Question.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been
30 called. All in favor of submitting that to the U.S. Fish
31 and Wildlife Service?

32
33 IN UNISON: Aye.

34
35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: All opposed signify by
36 saying nay?

37
38 (No opposing votes.)

39
40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Motion carries. Okay.
41 The next item on the agenda that we have is any fisheries
42 topics that anybody from the Council wishes to bring up at
43 this point in time to put on the floor to bring to the
44 other Council members. It doesn't necessarily have to be
45 salmon. It can be any fisheries topics. We've discussed a
46 lot of different fisheries topics already, but if anybody
47 has anything of concern, now is the time to bring it to the
48 Council and we can either put it on the agenda for another
49 meeting, or we can discuss it right now. Helga, I see you
50 -- do you have something for us, or were you.....

00343

1 MS. EAKON: No.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or have I missed something
4 again?

5

6 MS. EAKON: No, no. No.

7

8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I saw you draw in
9 your breath then, and I thought, oh, no, I.....

10

11 MS. EAKON: No, no.

12

13 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:did it again. Okay.
14 It seems like -- am I right in feeling that it seems the
15 feeling of the Council that we've discussed lots of
16 different issues on fisheries, and you're willing to wait
17 and see what the proposals and everything that comes before
18 us? In that case, we'll not go any place on that. And
19 then our annual report we need to revisit, and I have --
20 somebody suggested something to put in our annual report
21 this morning, and I didn't have my pencil and paper along,
22 and I didn't write it down. So whoever it was, whichever
23 one of you suggested something to me for the annual report,
24 please remember it right now. We.....

25

26 MR. ELVSAAS: What tab?

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Huh?

29

30 MR. ELVSAAS: What's the tab number?

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The tab number is tab XYZ.

33

34 MS. EAKON: Tab R as in Raven.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh-oh.

37

38 MR. KOLASINSKI: Corrected again.

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I'm corrected again.

41

42 MS. SWAN: Helga, you can't go.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I already told her
45 she couldn't go. I don't know -- I mean, she's just barely
46 getting us trained and then.....

47

48 MR. ELVSAAS: What a lengthy report.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I know. We had a very

00344

1 short report. I suggested a few things yesterday, I think
2 Helga took them down, didn't you?

3

4 MS. EAKON: Need for sufficient
5 funding.....

6

7 MR. DEMENTI: Federal fisheries manager.

8

9 MS. EAKON:for a field -- for
10 field.....

11

12 MS. SWAN: Right here is this.....

13

14 MS. EAKON:officers, field work. And
15 then thanking the board for the opportunity to have the
16 training session, and the need for more in the future as
17 the situation warrants it, warrants.

18

19 MS. SWAN: It's on page two of these.

20

21 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

22

23 MR. DEMENTI: Training for us for
24 fisheries, is that what it was?

25

26 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

27

28 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Training session for the
29 fisheries, yes.

30

31 MS. EAKON: Okay.

32

33 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah. Okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now, from some of the
36 things that I heard this morning, and I don't know how to
37 put it in our report, but it seems to be a concern in our
38 area, and that is the aspect of trespass and violation, and
39 lack of enforcement. And I don't know, you know, as the
40 Federal government assumes some of the responsibility for
41 management of the fishery, I think they're going to have to
42 assume some of the responsibility for enforcement, too.

43

44 MS. SWAN: Yep, I think so.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I think that we need
47 to bring that up as a priority, and say that, you know, if
48 they're going to do a good job, like we've said before
49 about funding for field personnel, we also need funding for
50 enforcement and that's -- I think that could go as part of

00345

1 our report, because we've heard that a number of times
2 today. And it's possible that they could even do something
3 jointly, because it affects subsistence users, that they
4 could do something jointly with the State so that the State
5 has some funding to actually act on some of these trespass
6 cases and theft from subsistence users and things like
7 that.

8

9 Anybody come -- now, one of you told me something
10 this morning. Do you remember what you told -- suggested?

11

12 MR. DEMENTI: I think we already acted on
13 that.

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Oh, we've already acted on
16 that one?

17

18 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, it's that combined.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

21

22 MR. DEMENTI:with Eastern and.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. It was the Eastern
25 one?

26

27 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

28

29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. At this point in
30 time do we want to make any comments in our yearly letter
31 on the most controversial subject in the State like we have
32 a few times in the past, or are we going to just leave our
33 past comments on wolf stand and let it go at that?

34

35 MS. EAKON: Well, you told the board that
36 you were going to monitor -- you know, that it was a deep
37 concern, and you were going to kind of track this issue.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

40

41 MS. EAKON: So you never ever dropped it,
42 you know. You just said, you know, it's still a concern.

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's still -- I guess we
45 could say -- we could still say it's still a concern,
46 because.....

47

48 MS. EAKON: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:of the fact that it's

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1 impact on food animals, impacts subsistence users in our
2 area.

3
4 MR. F. JOHN: Uh-huh.

5
6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And we recognize that it's
7 a politically volatile subject, but it is definitely still
8 a concern.

9
10 MS. EAKON: Uh-huh.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Anything else?

13
14 MR. ELVSAAS: It just seems to me, Mr.
15 Chairman, that, you know, it should be a little stronger
16 worded than that. It's a vital issue.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's a vital concern.

19
20 MR. ELVSAAS: Yes, absolutely.

21
22 MS. EAKON: Okay.

23
24 MR. F. JOHN:

25
26 MR. ELVSAAS: And -- otherwise, you know,
27 it will be lost in the round file.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

30
31 MR. ELVSAAS: And, you know, it's another
32 issue tearing our State apart.

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I think we need to
35 mention that it does not just -- moose predation does not
36 just impact sport hunters. Moose predation impacts
37 subsistence users, and it impacts us probably more directly
38 even than it impacts sport hunters. And that -- because
39 the Federal government and the way all the publicity is on
40 it, it's like, oh, they just want to take care of moose so
41 that sport hunters can have more hunting. But it also
42 impacts people who live in the area and depend on the
43 animals. So.....

44
45 MR. ELVSAAS: There is an interesting thing
46 about the protection of the Denali packs. There's a couple
47 of wolf packs up there that seem to be on the list to be
48 protected. It seems to me that if people wanted to view
49 wolves, that's the place to go. Go to Denali Park and see
50 the wolves. Why go -- you know, these wolves that are

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1 eating up the food right now are not wolves that people go
2 out to see every day.

3

4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

5

6 MR. ELVSAAS: They're predators and there
7 just are too many of them.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Have we got
10 anything else.....

11

12 MR. VLASOFF: The zoo is a good place, too.

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: What?

15

16 MR. VLASOFF: The zoo is a good place to
17 see them, too.

18

19 MR. ELVSAAS: Yep.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does anybody else have
22 anything else that they'd like to see in this annual
23 report? I see that Eastern Interior dropped everybody off
24 a little story, a little thing out of the Reader's Digest
25 that if anybody ever tells you that wolves never attack
26 people, you've got a little bit of information right there
27 that you can tell them that they haven't read their -- they
28 haven't reports as close as they should.

29

30 ATVs? Is it still a concern in our area, or are we
31 pretty much -- I know you sat in on the ATV thing.

32

33 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Do you think anything is
36 being done on it? Is it.....

37

38 MR. DEMENTI: I don't see anything being
39 done.

40

41 MR. VLASOFF: It's still a concern.

42

43 MR. DEMENTI: It's still a concern.

44

45 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I -- okay. We'll
46 put that in, that ATVs on Federal land in the caribou
47 country is still a concern of this Council and of the
48 people of the area.

49

50 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman, could I ask

00348

1 one?

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Uh-huh.

4

5 MR. ELVSAAS: Is it the ATVs or is it the
6 snow machines that's the real problem of harassment for the
7 game?

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah, I heard comments
10 from out there that said both.

11

12 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, I suppose it is to a
13 degree, but it seems to me that in the wintertime with the
14 snow pack, the snow machine harassment would be far more
15 detrimental to the.....

16

17 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I think from a harassment
18 standpoint, the snow machines are the biggest item, but
19 when it comes to breaking up the migration of the herd and
20 impacting them back in the -- way back during the hunting
21 season so that they don't travel the same way that they
22 normally would travel and everything, I think it's pretty
23 much the ATVs that have.....

24

25 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah.

26

27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:the impact on the
28 subsistence hunting, because they're -- the caribou are met
29 way back in by lots of ATVs, and that has a tendency to
30 break them up before they get in the area that most of the
31 subsistence users use. That's the report.....

32

33 MR. ELVSAAS: Oh, okay.

34

35 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:that I get from
36 people. You know, I'm.....

37

38 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, I hadn't thought of
39 that.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: You know, and so -- it
42 says -- last time it says, we -- your Regional Council
43 discussed this issue, decided to take a wait and see
44 approach on the use of ATVs. We've waited and seen, and so
45 far nothing's happened.

46

47 MR. DEMENTI: Nothing's happened.

48

49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And, you know, so from
50 that standpoint -- it also says we've tracked it since

1 1995. This is not a short-term issue either.

2

3 Okay. A lot of the things that we've mentioned
4 today, we've mentioned in the past, but I still think that
5 they're concerns. And if nobody has any other concerns, I
6 think we have enough things to put on their table at this
7 point in time. In the past we've always put in the Kenai
8 Peninsula rural/nonrural determinations and actions so --
9 right now. We've been promised action on that, so maybe we
10 want to leave that out of this report.

11

12 And if there's nothing further from anybody else,
13 we can go on to the next subject. Okay. The next subject
14 that we had, we all sat in on the hearings the other night.
15 We listened to the testimony back and forth and every which
16 direction. At this point in time, we have the opportunity
17 to revisit our decision that we've made in the past, if we
18 wish. We have the opportunity to do nothing if we wish.
19 Is it the wish of any member of this Council to revisit our
20 decision on rural/nonrural determination for the Kenai? If
21 it's not, we'll leave it stand the way it is.

22

23 MR. ELVSAAS: Leave it stand.

24

25 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

26

27 MS. SWAN: I agree.

28

29 MR. DEMENTI: Would it be a good idea just
30 for the record.....

31

32 MS. EAKON: To make a motion.

33

34 MR. DEMENTI: To make a motion.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: To leave our decision
37 stand?

38

39 MS. EAKON: Yeah.

40

41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's -- it's
42 definitely.....

43

44 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah.

45

46 MS. SWAN: Uh-huh.

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:up to the Council.
49 If a member of the Council wants to do it, that's fine.

50

1 MR. DEMENTI: I'll move.

2
3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So move.

4
5 MS. SWAN: Second.

6
7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Is there a second?

8
9 MR. VLASOFF: Second.

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And there's a second. So
12 it's been moved and seconded to leave our original decision
13 on the rural/nonrural determination of the Kenai stand as
14 we presented it to the board. Any further.....

15
16 MR. VLASOFF: Question.

17
18 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:discussion on that?

19
20 MR. VLASOFF: Question.

21
22 MR. ELVSAAS: Question.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The question's been
25 called. All in favor signify by saying aye?

26
27 IN UNISON: Aye.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Opposed signify by saying
30 nay?

31
32 (No opposing votes.)

33
34 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The motion carries. Okay.
35 At this point in time -- boy, Helga's close. I'll see if I
36 can stall the meeting until she said we're going to get
37 out. At this point in time we need a time and place of
38 next public meeting. Fred had a suggestion. Would you
39 like to make the suggestion?

40
41 MR. F. JOHN: I'd like to have the next
42 meeting in Mentasta if -- which we'll see where the big
43 court case start. Yeah, I'd like to invite everybody up
44 there for a meeting next fall, and I think it will be a
45 good place to be. Since we haven't had a meeting in a
46 village for quite a while, you know, I think it would be
47 good. And we've got -- we have a lodge about eight miles
48 away, and Tok about 40 miles away, but we'll try to work it
49 out where we could put everybody up in school or at the
50 clinic or something, you know. And if we could, you know,

00351

1 you've got to bring your sleeping bag.

2

3 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Remember, it's going to be
4 a long meeting.

5

6 MS. EWAN: It's a good time for them to
7 practice their subsistence laws -- resources, too.

8

9 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Right.

10

11 MR. DEMENTI: It will be fall meeting, and
12 we could.....

13

14 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: We expect a moose for the
15 potlatch, right?

16

17 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah. It will be a fall
18 meeting, so it will be, you know, be the right time,
19 hunting season time.

20

21 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

22

23 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, wait a minute now, if
24 we all go up there, doesn't that make it urban?

25

26 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. That's.....

27

28 MR. ELVSAAS: Just a suggestion.

29

30 MS. EWAN: We request you open up Unit 11,
31 too.

32

33 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: The suggestion has been
34 made that we have our meeting up at Mentasta, and that
35 we'll work out the conditions of lodging and place to do it
36 and everything. How does that sound to the rest of the
37 Council?

38

39 MS. SWAN: Good.

40

41 MR. ELVSAAS: Sounds good to me.

42

43 MR. VLASOFF: Sounds good to me.

44

45 MR. DEMENTI: When?

46

47 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Ah, when.....

48

49 MR. ELVSAAS: Yeah, that's.....

50

00352

1 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now comes.....

2

3 MR. ELVSAAS: Now we're in a squeeze.

4

5 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Now come the time. We
6 have a window. It looks to me like we have a window
7 somewhere between -- well, we could have it -- let's see.
8 We can't consult with Helga, because she's not going to be
9 there.

10

11 MS. EAKON: But don't conflict with Seward
12 Pen in case the newly hired coordinator has to take Seward
13 Pen as well, so.....

14

15 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

16

17 MS. EAKON: And, of course, you don't want
18 to conflict with Eastern.....

19

20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: No.

21

22 MS. EAKON:or Western. So.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: So basically the three
25 weeks that -- well, we could -- otherwise we can actually
26 have it on the same day as somebody else, that's right.
27 No, we don't want to, because we want to be able to get the
28 Federal.....

29

30 MR. ELVSAAS: Staff.

31

32 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:employees and
33 everything there, too. So to me it looks like we've got
34 two choices, which the second week in September and the
35 first, second week in October. Personally.....

36

37 MR. VLASOFF: September.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:I'm a October person,
40 but it's up to the rest of the Council.

41

42 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman?

43

44 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Fred?

45

46 MR. ELVSAAS: When you say the second week
47 in October, Eastern Interior is going to meet, aren't we
48 going to have.....

49

50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

00353

1 MR. ELVSAAS:some liaison with them?
2 They may have people who want to attend our meeting.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. I'm sorry, I guess
5 I was looking at the third week in October, now that I look
6 at the dates on it.

7
8 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, the third week's AFN
9 and the prior days to AFN you have the elders and youth
10 conferences.

11
12 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So that one's out.

13
14 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Let's take that one out
17 then.

18
19 MR. ELVSAAS: I would suggest the first
20 week in October.

21
22 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay.

23
24 MR. ELVSAAS: Western Interior is.....

25
26 MR. DEMENTI: 29th?

27
28 MR. ELVSAAS:supposed to be meeting
29 at the same time.....

30
31 MR. DEMENTI: Somewhere around the 29th.

32
33 MR. ELVSAAS:but I think our staff
34 and support should be able to attend our meeting.

35
36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

37
38 MR. ELVSAAS: And I think September's too
39 early.

40
41 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Ken says he can't
42 do it the first week in October, and we're not supposed to
43 do it on the same week as Seward Peninsula/Nome, because
44 that's a week that our person will probably share,
45 because.....

46
47 MS. EAKON: Well.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE:they'll have this
50 responsibility, too.

1 MS. EAKON: So just leave that person
2 September 28 to come back to Anchorage and travel.

3
4 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's kind of touchy.

5
6 MS. EAKON: Yeah, but -- yeah.

7
8 MR. DEMENTI: 21st September? 21st, 22nd,
9 and if need be would be 23rd and 24th?

10
11 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. I was going to say
12 I think you'd better plan three days.

13
14 MR. DEMENTI: 20th, 21st and 22nd.

15
16 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Of September.

17
18 MR. DEMENTI: September.

19
20 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: How does that look to
21 everybody?

22
23 MR. VLASOFF: That's better.

24
25 MR. ELVSAAS: Say the dates again?

26
27 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: 20th, 21st, and 22nd of
28 September.

29
30 MR. ELVSAAS: Of September.

31
32 MR. DEMENTI: One day hunting moose.

33
34 MS. SWAN: That's okay with me.

35
36 MR. ELVSAAS: Okay with us.

37
38 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: That's the last day of
39 moose season.

40
41 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

42
43 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, we ought to be able to
44 have a moose then.

45
46 MR. DEMENTI: Yeah, we'll just have moose
47 the last day I mean.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Or you can go a day early
50 and get a moose up there, right?

00355

1 MR. F. JOHN: Good, need meat.

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's okay with me.

4

5 MS. SWAN: Looks good to me.

6

7 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Does that meet everybody's

8 -- Fred?

9

10 MR. ELVSAAS: In the Mentasta area, is that
11 the closing date, the 20th.....

12

13 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah.

14

15 MR. ELVSAAS:of moose?

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The State?

18

19 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah.

20

21 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I think so.

22

23 MS. EWAN: (Indiscernible) one moose on
24 your way there.

25

26 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

27

28 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
29 deciding factor.

30

31 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. Don't say that.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay.

34

35 MR. F. JOHN: Okay.

36

37 MS. EWAN: You're on Federal land.

38

39 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Okay. So the meeting will
40 be the 20th, 21st, and 22nd at Mentasta. It's a beautiful
41 time of the year to be up there. How are the cranberries
42 at that time up there?

43

44 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Gone.

45

46 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: I don't believe you.

47

48 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah, I don't either.

49

50 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Because I pick them all

00356

1 the way to spring, so.....

2

3 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Rosehips are
4 (indiscernible).

5

6 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yeah. Okay. That takes
7 care of that. If there is no other subject that needs
8 discussed, and I'll give us one last opportunity.

9

10 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He's got one.

11

12 MR. JUSTIN: Mr. Chairman, just for your
13 edification, I'd like to add to your meeting in Mentasta.
14 My name is Wilson Justin. I'm with Mount Sanford Tribal
15 Consortium. The phone number there is 822-5399. And you
16 can either contact myself or Evelyn Beater who is the
17 president of Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium. At
18 Chistochina the tribal office is 822-3503, the tribal
19 administrator is Elaine Sinyan. At Mentasta, the phone
20 number is 291-2319. The administrator there is Katherine
21 Martin. Chistochina and Mentasta are the two villages.
22 You'll be passing through Chistochina to go to Mentasta,
23 and if you need to deal with places to stay, logistics of
24 that sort in advance of your coming up, we'd be more than
25 willing to help, and the 822-5399 is Mount Sanford Tribal
26 Consortium, and from there we can help with whatever you
27 need. Hopefully we'll all be able to join you there when
28 the time comes, but that is hunting season, kind of.....

29

30 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, it's the end of it.

31

32 MR. JUSTIN: Yeah. We'll welcome you when
33 you get there, and we'll help in any way we can when you do
34 get there. Thank you.

35

36 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Thank you. With that.....

37

38 MR. ELVSAAS: Mr. Chairman?

39

40 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Yes, Fred?

41

42 MR. ELVSAAS: Well, what I'd -- I'd like to
43 thank everybody that's helped me up and down the steps, and
44 I need your help one more time to get out of here.

45

46 MR. F. JOHN: Can I say something?

47

48 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Fred John's got something
49 to say.

50

1 MR. F. JOHN: Yeah. Okay. I just want to
2 thank all the staff people that stayed and everything for
3 their report, and coming here and just being here for the
4 last three days. It's pretty hard sitting down there for
5 ten hours a day, and thank you very much. And all the
6 other people that came and everything, just thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: And I'd like to make one
9 last thank you to -- well, it won't be the last thank you
10 to Helga, but I'd like to make one last thank you to Helga
11 for this meeting anyhow, for all that she's done for this
12 Council, and all that she's done for us personally as
13 individuals to help us with this Council, and for all of
14 the headaches that she's put up with trying to get ahold of
15 us when we're hard to get ahold of. And we wish you the
16 best of everything, and God's blessings on your new job,
17 and we hope we find somebody half as good as you for the
18 next -- for us for the next bunch.

19
20 MS. EAKON: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.
21 And I'm going to tell my bosses I have dibs on the Mentasta
22 meeting. I get to go.

23
24 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: Well, I hope so. Okay.
25 With that, a motion to adjourn is in order?

26
27 MS. SWAN: So moved.

28
29 CHAIRMAN LOHSE: It's been moved to
30 adjourn, meeting is adjourned.

31
32 (END OF PROCEEDING)

C E R T I F I C A T E

1
2
3 UNITED States OF AMERICA)
4) ss.
5 State OF ALASKA)
6

7 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
8 the State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
9 certify:
10

11 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 291 through 357
12 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME III,
13 SOUTHCENTRAL SUBSISTENCE FEDERAL REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD
14 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by me on the 3rd day
15 of March, 2000, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m.
16 at the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association, Kenai, Alaska;
17

18 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
19 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
20 transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to
21 the best of our knowledge and ability;
22

23 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
24 interested in any way in this action.
25

26 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 15th day of March
27 2000.
28
29
30
31

32 _____
33 Joseph P. Kolasinski
34 Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00